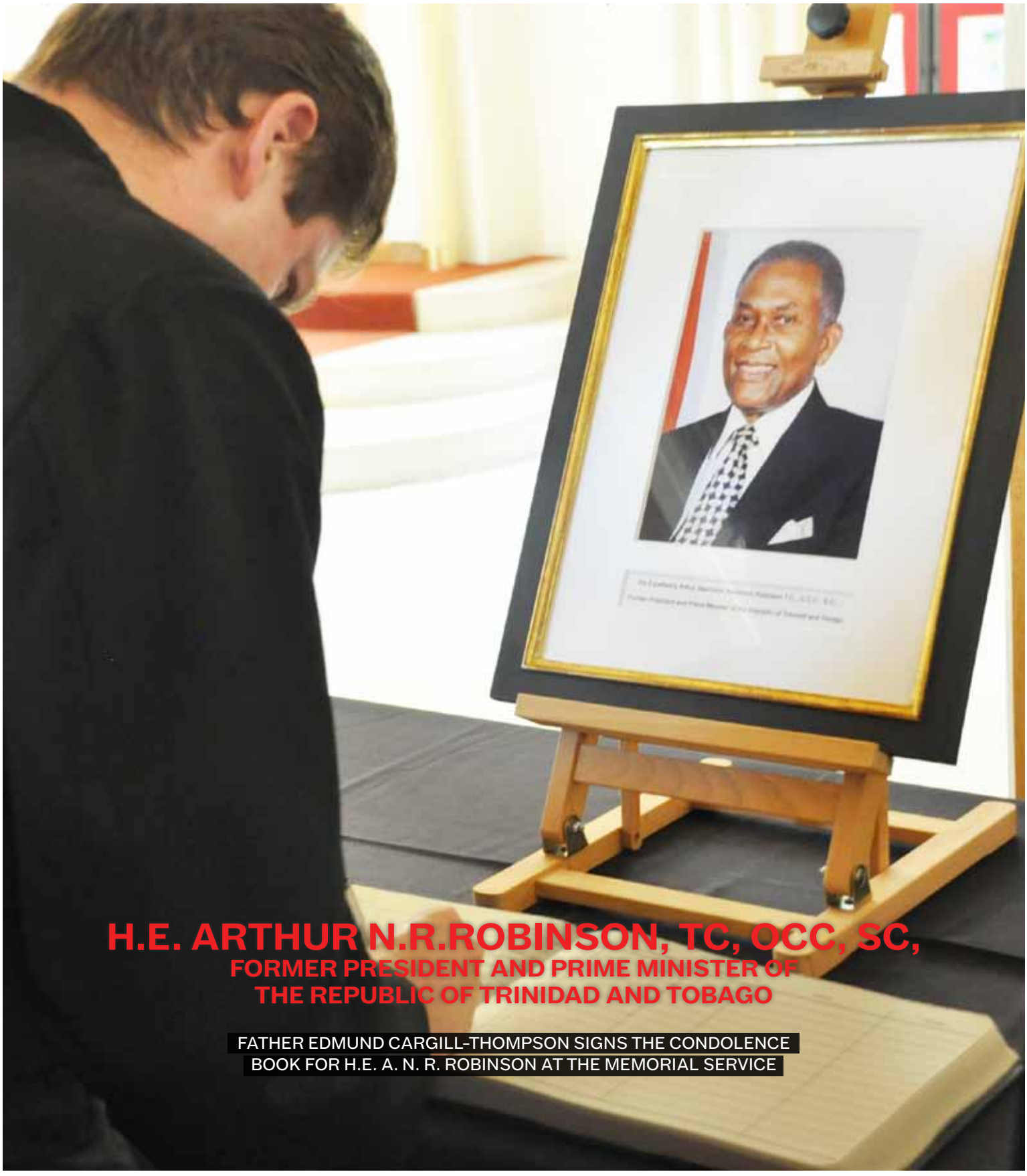
LONDON **MISSION**
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON

**VOLUME 67**
APR - JUN 2014



# H.E. ARTHUR N.R.ROBINSON, TC, OCC, SC,
## FORMER PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

FATHER EDMUND CARGILL-THOMPSON SIGNS THE CONDOLENCE BOOK FOR H.E. A. N. R. ROBINSON AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

*A Quarterly Publication of :*
***The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London***
*42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT*

***TEL:*** *020 7245 9351*
***FAX:*** *020 7823 1065*
***EMAIL:*** *tthc@btconnect.com*

***PRINTING***
*Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Department of The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, Acting High Commissioner

**EDITORS**

Ms. Nickesha Smith, 2nd Secretary
Ms. Keisha Rochford-Hawkins, 2nd Secretary
Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché

**WRITER**

Ms. Bianca Beddoe

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Mrs. Karen Thomas
Ms. Claudia Cupid
Mrs. Candice Latchman
Ms. Rachael Robinson
Mr. Rion George

**PROOFING**

Mrs. Beverley Awonaya
Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Mr. Lawson C. Lovell
Ms. Bianca Beddoe
Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché
Mrs. Karen Thomas
Mr. Michael Graham
Ms. Edith Parker
Mr. Rod Leon
Ms. Khadine Adams
Mr. Anthony Johnson

**LAYOUT AND DESIGN**

Mr. Lawson C. Lovell
Ms. Bianca Beddoe

## *STAY CONNECTED*

**Facebook**
TTHC London

**Twitter**
@TnT_London

Complete the National's Registration Form online or in person at the T&T High Commission.

# CONTENTS

*LONDON* ***MISSION*** | *APR - JUN 2014*
*ISSUE 67*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**3/** Statement on passing of former President Arthur N.R. Robinson

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

**4/** Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar mourns passing of former President Arthur N.R. Robinson

NEWS FROM THE MISSION

**8/** Trinidad And Tobago pioneers online 'knowledge network'

**12/** TTHC, London, pays tribute to H.E. Arthur N. R. Robinson TC, OCC, SC

**14/** A Pictorial tribute to H.E. Arthur N.R. Robinson TC, OCC, SC throughout his years

**16/** The Hon. Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, pays visit to High Commission, London

EYE ON TRADE

**17/** TTHC participates in Pan African and Caribbean Business Expo

**19/** TTHC Participates at UK-Caribbean Business Conference

**21/** Intersection: The Caribbean Meets Savile Row

CONSULAR & STUDENT SERVICES

**23/** A TT Student's UK Adventure

**23/** For The Love Of Languages

IMMIGRATION

**27/** Update on Visa-Free Travel to EU

CULTURE & TOURISM

**31/** TTHC celebrates rediscovery of history for Indian Arrival Day

**33/** Brian Lara Shines At Lord's For Legendary Bicentennial

FEATURES

**33/** Spotlight On... Rhodes Scholar Kiron Neale

**34/** Tobago welcomes additional airlift for the winter season

# HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT CARMONA STATEMENT ON PASSING OF ARTHUR N.R. ROBINSON TC, SC, OCC

After receiving the sad news of the departure of this great Trinbagonian and globally revered statesman, I took the opportunity to visit the hospital where, in the room where he lay, I prayed together with his daughter Ann Margaret, his grand-daughter Anushka and others for the repose of his soul.

*His Excellency Anthony Carmona S.C., President of Trinidad and Tobago*

His Excellency Arthur NR Robinson was not only a distinguished lawyer, former prime minister and head of state, but was an unwavering patriot who believed that the people of Trinidad and Tobago possess the innate talents and skills to make this country a model nation. He observed and was part of the march from colonialism to self-government, to independence and then republicanism.

Despite whatever difficulties we are experiencing as a nation, His Excellency Mr Robinson never lost faith in our ability to overcome any obstacle which threatened our democracy and our respect for the rule of law. As a nation, we recall his personal sacrifice in preventing Trinidad and Tobago's democracy and way of life from being destroyed, when he stood up to terrorists, and declared with stout defiance : "attack with full force".

This patriot was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice, so that we all, citizens of this fair land, from politician to priest could live to see a better tomorrow.

At a personal level, I have witnessed the conviction and contribution of this colossus on the international plane when he took the political initiative to call upon the international community to establish a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) to bring to justice those accused of committing atrocities such as, genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, the crime of aggression, and international drug trafficking, which has not been included as a crime under the jurisdiction of ICC to date.

It is within my personal knowledge that he continued to press for drug trafficking to be under the jurisdiction of the ICC because of the scourge it continues to inflict on all nations.

President Robinson was courageous. He defied the sceptics who scoffed at his dream of seeing the establishment of the ICC. Judge Sang-Hyun Song, president of the ICC, described His Excellency as the 'grandfather of the ICC', a title which pays homage to his vision for an international solution to arrest universal impunity.

He was a trailblazer who showed that small states can, and have made a difference to global affairs, if leaders have visions beyond the narrow confines of winning elections.

He was a champion of the sovereign right of people to have their legislators make laws for the good of the entire citizenry, and not merely for special interests groups, be they political or economic. This passion was also brought to the fore when he served as president of that influential global NGO, Parliamentarians for Global Action.

I am honoured to have worked with His Excellency Mr Robinson whose counsel and influence made me a better prosecutor and judge.

On behalf of my family and the entire nation, I wish to convey my deepest condolences to the family of His Excellency Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson TC, SC, OCC. Our thoughts are with his children, Ann Margaret and David, his grand-daughter Anushka, the other members of his family, and close friends during this very difficult time.

# THE HONOURABLE KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR, PRIME MINISTER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PAYS TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRESIDENT, HIS EXCELLENCY ARTHUR N.R. ROBINSON IN PARLIAMENT

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you for this opportunity to reflect on the life of one of our nation's most celebrated and honoured sons, the late Prime Minister and President, Arthur NR Robinson.

At the age of 87, Mr Robinson passed away quietly and peacefully, bringing to a close a life that was lived with tremendous purpose and achievement.

He was the nation's first post-independence Minister of Finance.

He was the first Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly.

He was our third Prime Minister.

And he was our third President.

All of this we know, and to some extent, became accustomed and maybe even took for granted.

But behind the legendary life, was a man who lived as we do, fought as we do, and triumphed and lost as we have.

He was a beloved husband, son, father and friend.

*Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC, signs the condolence book at the home of the late President and Prime Minister, Arthur NR Robinson, at Elerslie Park, this afternoon. Looking on are Mr Robinson's daughter, Ann Margaret, and grand-daughter, Anuska*

**EARLY LIFE**

Mr Robinson was born to Isabella and James Robinson, in Calder Hall, Tobago in 1926.

He attended the Castara Methodist School, where his father was the Head Master.

From an early age, Mr Robinson's academic strengths had already set him apart – as the first Bowles Scholar taking him into Bishop's High School in 1939.

Later he became the first House Scholarship winner from Bishop's High School in 1942.

Mr Robinson was also in line for an Island scholarship from Bishop's High School in 1944 and 1945, achieving the Higher School Certificate in both years with distinction in Latin.

He then set his sights on St John's College, Oxford, where he pursued a degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

Having also obtained his LLB as an External Student of the University of London, he later entered the chambers of Sir Courtenay Hannays in Trinidad in 1957, after being called to the Bar, Inner Temple, London, in 1954.

By this time, it was clear that an achieving boy was destined to become an accomplished graduate and already, he had set himself apart from his peers.

As an academic, Mr Robinson vigorously pursued publication of his thoughts and ideas on how development at that time should take place.

Mr Robinson authored The New Frontier and the New African (1961); Fiscal Reform in Trinidad and Tobago (1966); The Path to Progress (1967), and The Teacher and Nationalism (1967).

But he distinguished himself even further, by pursuing a life in politics, and in so doing set out to apply his thinking to practice.

**ENTRY INTO POLITICS**

As an achiever and proud son of the soil, Mr Robinson entered the political arena when he was elected to the Trinidad and Tobago Parliament as a representative for Tobago in 1961.

Serving as our first post-Independence Minister of Finance, Mr Robinson led the restructuring of the country's financial institutions and the reform of financial and monetary policy when we became an independent nation in 1962.

But even with his first foray into politics appearing to tie him to one political philosophy and party, he did something that, for many, might have been unthinkable in those times.

In 1970, his differences with the PNM would lead to his resignation from the Cabinet. He had opposed the introduction of the Public Order Bill which the PNM

had introduced following the 1970 Black Power uprising.

Some months earlier he had forewarned the country:

"Our country cries out for men and women who cannot be bought and sold,

"Men and women who are prepared to put principle before personality,

"Country before self,

"Morality before power".

He broke with the PNM, and formed his own political party – the Action Committee of Democratic Citizens (ACDC).

He was a man driven by intellect and passion. He had his own thoughts and beliefs on what was right for Trinidad & Tobago and when he found that the party to which he attached himself diverged from his thinking, he set out in search of a new political platform.

Standing together with the Democratic Labour Party, Mr Robinson led the "no-vote" campaign of 1971 in protest over voting machines which the Opposition DLP considered to be used for election fraud in the 1961 and 1966 elections.

Following that election, Robinson founded the Democratic Action Congress (DAC) which won the two Tobago seats in the 1976 and 1981 elections.

And Mr Speaker, what came next is perhaps evidence that Mr Robinson was one of the first few to understand partnership politics was indeed the best formula for better representation and governance.

**THE RISE OF THE NAR**

In 1981 Mr Robinson and another former Prime Minister, Mr Basdeo Panday who at that time was the Leader of the United Labour Front (ULF) worked out an arrangement to stand together in the electoral fight.

Both leaders also joined forces with the Tapia House Movement which was led by late Economist, Lloyd Best.

This gave birth to the National Alliance.

Soon after, an accommodation agreement was struck with the Organisation for National Reconstruction under the leadership of Karl Hudson-Phillips.

The united approach proved successful in the Local Government elections of 1983.

Taking this as the first clear signal that a new Government was possible, the four parties combined to form the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) which won the 1986 elections by a margin of 33-3.

Mr Robinson was appointed Prime Minister and the lead figure in one of our nation's most tumultuous periods of economic reform, political change and social upheavals.

As Prime Minister, Mr Robinson faced some of the most intense challenges in our nation's history, but he bravely took the tough decisions required at that time.

We all remember those years. The NAR Government inherited an economy that was in an advanced stage of decline.

A deep recession was setting in.

Revenue was falling.

The nation's finances were depleted.

The times were hard and called for hard decisions.

And it was Mr Robinson, supported by people like Selby Wilson and our own Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston Dookeran, who dug their heels in and did what they had to do.

Even when our darkest hours came when his Government came under attack by armed insurgents, Mr Robinson was clear that he would lay down his life if it meant that democracy would emerge the victor.

We all remember and now, reminisce about his courageous command to the armed forces to "attack with full force".

Here it is a Prime Minister of our proud and free Republic, was being held hostage.

Our people and our way of life were under siege.

Insurgents took aim at his head, and yet, he defied orders to tell the armed forces to stand down.

To Mr Robinson, the members of his Government and the Members of Parliament who endured this horrific experience, the lives and freedoms of the people of Trinidad & Tobago were far too important, and if it meant surrendering their lives to save our country, they were willing to do it.

And Mr Speaker, let us never forget the Member of Parliament for Diego Martin Central, Mr Leo Des Vignes, who died from injuries sustained during the insurrection.

We all remember the images of that period, Mr Speaker.

Port of Spain was littered with rubble and smoke.

Mr Robinson was being led out of the Parliament building in a wheelchair, having been shot in the knee.

The acting Prime Minister at the time, Mr Dookeran, was busily trying to maintain contact with the outside world, while at the same time working to restore law and order here at home.

And though majestic the personality, Mr Robinson was only human!

In all of the pain and suffering that he and the members of his Cabinet endured, it was a simple note, with a simple message that gave him the will to fight on.

In his account of the ordeal, Mr Robinson recalled one of the insurgents passing him an envelope, saying it was a message from his wife.

He said when he opened the envelope and read the note, the three words gave him the strength to carry on.

Those three words were written on a piece of paper by his wife – "I love you".

**THE FALL OF THE NAR**

But Mr Speaker, politics and democratic traditions means that ultimately, whatever one's service, loyalty and dedication, it is the citizen who decides who runs the Government.

By 1991, Mr Robinson faced an electorate that was angry over his decisions.

Citizens at that time were not in a charitable mood and did not want explanations for why the harsh measures were necessary.

He was voted out and in the new Parliament, sat on the back bench, with the NAR winning only two seats.

But Mr Robinson was by no means about to fade into the landscape.

It was in 1989, during a Session of the UN General Assembly, he proposed the creation of a permanent international court to deal with the transnational drug trade.

And just over 12 years later came the inauguration of the International Criminal Court in 2002, commissioned to hear cases of crimes against humanity.

Mr Robinson was recognised as one of the chief proponents and a driving force behind the ICC. In fact, he is now called the "grandfather" of the ICC.

**THE HEAD OF STATE**

By the time of the formation of the ICC, Mr Robinson had already returned to the political mainstream.

In 1995, when the general elections were called, some of us will remember Mr Robinson's primary campaign message – "We will make the difference".

As fate would have it, the election result came in at 17 seats for the UNC, 17 seats for the PNM and 2 seats for the NAR.

It was with these two seats that Mr Robinson did in fact make the difference and was instrumental again in forming a new Government this time led by Mr Basdeo Panday.

Mr Robinson became our nation's first Minister Extraordinaire, in recognition of his status as an Elder Statesman, with the experience to advise on all levels of Government.

By 1997, Mr Robinson stood down from his Tobago seat and was chosen by then Prime Minister Panday as the Government's choice for President.

Again, he created history as the only former Prime Minister to also ascend to the position of Head of State.

**FROM HONOURABLE TO EXCELLENCY**

As President, he stood as an exemplary Head of State, even when faced with declining health, and served with distinction.

And it was in his time as President that Trinidad & Tobago would face another defining moment in its social and political history.

In 2001, just one year after the UNC was elected to a second term, a general election was forced and the result delivered a deadlock – both the major parties won 18 seats.

It was left to then President Robinson to decide who would assume the Prime Ministership and the choice made was for Patrick Manning to assume leadership of Government.

Mr Speaker, this electoral tie and unprecedented constitutional crisis and the decision made by the then President caused intense debate, a great part of which was bitterly played out in the public.

We all know what the arguments were at that time; we all know how we felt at that time and how we were prepared to fight his decision.

Many were hurting – one side did not lose, but the other side did not win.

But today, almost 14 years later, that decision has written itself into history as a moment when our nation was forced to re-examine its supreme law and reconsider the arrangements by which we govern ourselves.

Mr Speaker, all throughout human history, where nations around the world came to turning points where the future was to be transformed and a new path was to be chosen, there was never a time when everyone agreed.

Yes, there was pain, there was anguish…there was even bitterness.

But Mr Speaker, if we as a nation are to truly continuing walking forward, we are the ones who will hurt ourselves if we remain locked in the past.

And for anyone who still holds to the pain of the past, I ask that we allow old wounds to heal, consider what we have been able to learn, and then allow ourselves to grow.

Mr Speaker, history is there to teach us.

Each of us in this Honourable House, and those members like Mr Robinson who came before us, hold a rare and privileged place, where we not only become part of history, but also become the authors of it.

When we realize that our actions today will inevitably create the future, it becomes our duty to rise above that which pains us personally, and do what is best for our country.

In all of the things that I have been able to learn in my own long career in politics, Mr Speaker, it is this that guides me.

Our every action, our every word, our every conviction

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar presented former President Arthur N.R. Robinson with a framed photograph, taken during their historic lunch meeting at his residence on the eve of the May 24, general election in T&T. Photo Courtesy: Dilip Singh/ www.facebook.com/ttparliament

will all come together to create the future. Acting responsibly is therefore not just a requirement, it is our duty.

**REST IN PEACE**

And this is why Mr Speaker, notwithstanding our arguments in the past and our conviction that something wrong was done…the past is best honoured by learning and letting go.

Was Mr Robinson the perfect human being? No he wasn't.

He was as imperfect as any one of us here in this House.

But what set him apart was that in just his one lifetime, he set out on a journey to change the life he found, and he succeeded.

This is why His Excellency President Carmona described him as a colossus, because he fought based on a vision for something better, achieved and did his best to fulfill that vision, and used the influence he gained to change the course of our nation's history.

Indeed, through his years of advocacy, championing the ICC, Mr Robinson can easily be described as having used his life and work to make a change in the world, a fact forever immortalized by him being remembered as the grandfather of the ICC.

**CONCLUSION**

Mr Speaker, it is for these reason that I have described him as one of our nation's outstanding sons, who brought honour to his family and his country.

And I am very happy that Mr Robinson was able to see for himself the admiration that he earned.

We have all seen honours for great men and women in history only after their passing.

But this time around, Mr Robinson was able to see his name honoured with the Tobago Airport.

Today, though it is a sad moment in our history, I find comfort in knowing that he will now be reunited with his life-time partner and best friend, his wife, the late Patricia Robinson.

In honour of the man he was, the life he lived, the dignity with which he served his country and the proud legacy he has left for us to emulate, I have instructed the Minister of National Security to fly the national flag at half-mast during a period of national mourning.

His body will lie in state in the Rotunda of the Red House and I know thousands of our citizens would want to take the opportunity to pay their respects.

Later his body will be flown to the island of his birth, Tobago, where it will also lie in state, followed by a private internment.

Mr Speaker, to his family, his children David and Ann-Margaret, and his granddaughter Anushka, I send my most heartfelt condolences.

Mr Speaker, Mr Robinson's passing is a deep and tragic loss for our country, but I am sure he will always stand as an inspiration to today's and tomorrow's people.

And that inspiration can very well be a tribute to our nation's motto – Together we aspire, together we achieve.

May his soul now find peace.

*http://www.news.gov.tt/content/pm-persad-bissessars-statement-anr-robinson-parliament-april-11-2014*

School children pay their respects and bid farewell to former President Arthur NR Robinson at the Legislative Chamber of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) Administration Building before the funeral service at the Dwight Yorke Stadium and a private family service. Photo: www.newsamericasnow.com

children's Life Fund

*The Fund was Created and established in November 2010 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Children's Life Fund's aegis is to provide urgent relief for children, assisting those who live in the shadow of disease and illness. The Fund has also received support from the renewed charity medical Schriners Children's Hospital. In addition, all Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament contribute 5% of their salary to the Fund.*

***For more information on The Children's Life Fund please visit*** *www.clfa.org.tt*

***Account Number:*** *50927848*
***Sort Code:*** *204734*

*Trinidad and Tobago High Commission (Children's Life Fund)*

*Barclays Bank, West Halkin Street, London SW1X 8JE*

NEWS

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PIONEERS ONLINE 'KNOWLEDGE NETWORK'

Trinidad and Tobago is pioneering an ambitious online learning project. Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST), launched MTEST's national knowledge gateway: knowledge.tt at the National Academy for the Performing Arts on Wednesday May 28, 2014.

Lila Ibrahim, Chief Business Officer of Coursera, (seated) accesses the knowledgett website at the launch of the new national knowledge gateway. (From L to R) Curtis Manchoon, Chairman, UTT; Dyer Narinesingh, President, UTT; Navneet Boodhai, Vice President, Business Development and Marketing and Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training.

Coursera, one of the biggest online university course providers, is forming a partnership with the Government to provide a network of online learning materials across the Caribbean country. This project in Trinidad will be the first time that a Mooc system will have been designed for an entire country, described as a "national knowledge network".

The free open access platform will feature learning resources which are now available to the people of Trinidad and Tobago on television and the internet. Minister Karim has long expressed a wish that this type of content be made easily available to the people of this country so people can learn easily from wherever they are located.

The gateway was developed by the University of Trinidad and Tobago, an agency of MTEST. The developers worked in partnership with Coursera, an online platform that hosts academic courses; Khan Academy, an organization which posts educational videos and the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) which posts training videos in a variety of subject areas. Users of knowledge.tt will be able to access this content from the website. Videos will also be shown on GISL Channel 4 from 4PM to 5PM on weekdays. A mobile app is already in the works from September.

Speaking before an audience of representatives from the partner organizations and other stakeholders, Minister Karim described knowledge.tt as "Learning on the go, so we could go towards learning". He emphasized that the gateway will assist in continuous learning for the individuals who seize the opportunity. As its content is continually developing, the platform is set to have local learning materials added to the list of offerings. At present among other videos, the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP), an agency of MTEST, has already posted a video production course for users. The developers of the gateway have examined the available content and related it to this country's local curriculum. In addition, UTT is set to provide credit for online learning from June 2015.

During her address, key note speaker, Lila Ibrahim, Chief Business Officer of Coursera described knowledge.tt as the most comprehensive learning project worldwide and noted that it was a model which can be held up as an example globally. She announced that she hopes that the people of this country "learn topics that you'll enjoy to open doors to your future".

- *http://test.gov.tt/Portals/0/news/MediaCentre/News/tabid/255/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/143/Knowledgett_is_live.aspx; http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-27610828*

# NEW DESTINATIONS FOR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS REVEALED

*16 April 2014*

Students from Commonwealth countries can now pursue postgraduate study in a new range of destinations thanks to scholarships announced this week under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP).

Up to 15 scholarships are available during 2014-2015 for international students to study for Master's degrees at universities in ten low and middle income Commonwealth countries, including Bangladesh, Barbados, Ghana and South Africa.

These scholarships will complement the hundreds of Commonwealth Scholarships already offered each year by the governments of more established host countries such as New Zealand, India, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom, and is in line with a drive towards broadening opportunities for international scholarships throughout the Commonwealth.

According to Dr John Kirkland, Deputy Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), the scholarships are intended to provide life-changing opportunities for students from both developed and developing Commonwealth countries. They also serve as a statement of the ability of universities in many parts of the Commonwealth to host international students.

"Although higher education is often described as a global activity, all too often this relates to one-way traffic," Dr Kirkland said. "These scholarships help to make the globalisation of higher education a reality."

The scholarships are funded by the expansion of the CSFP endowment fund, raised by the ACU and Commonwealth Secretariat following the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 2009. The fund has attracted donations from over 200 alumni of the Commonwealth Scholarship programme, and 13 Commonwealth governments. In the spirit of the fund, several of the host universities have also contributed by waiving or reducing their normal tuition fee levels.

It is hoped that 2015 will see scholarships tenable in a wider range of Commonwealth countries including Cameroon, Mauritius, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and at the University of the South Pacific – all of whom are already hosting Scholars from the 2013 competition.

*http://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/new-destinations-commonwealth-scholarships-revealed*

The Commonwealth

For further information on the scholarships, links to the host universities and application forms please visit:

*https://www.acu.ac.uk/focus-areas/scholarships/csfp-scholarships/*

# AGRICULTURE POLICY PROGRAMME (APP) LAUNCHED

The Agriculture Policy Programme, touted as 'More than a Project', but more of an Opportunity to build partnerships for development of agriculture in CARIFORUM' was officially launched in Trinidad and Tobago on Monday 19th May, 2014. This followed the hosting of the first formal meeting of the members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

This "Caribbean Action under the Programme entitled Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) with focus on the Caribbean and Pacific" is an EU Euro 8.6 million funded Project under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), to be executed over four years. It comprises three inter-related components designed to enhance the capabilities of agriculture to eradicate poverty, namely:

Action 1: Regional Policy and Strategy - "Strengthen implementation of regional agricultural development policy and strategy"

Action 2: Technology, Transfer and Adoption - "Improve the transfer and adoption of applied agricultural production and processing research results and technologies and where appropriate, generate new technologies for target commodities"

Action 3: Linking Markets to Enterprises - "Improve market linkages to contribute to agricultural enterprise development

The Launch included a Round-table Conversation among key partners, including Ms. Kathrin Renner, Representative of the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Arlington Chesney, Executive Director, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI); Ms. Desire Field-Ridley, Officer in Charge, Trade and Economic Integration, Caribbean Community Secretariat; Mr. Gregg Rawlins, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture Representative in Trinidad and Tobago and Coordinator Regional Integration, Caribbean Region; and Ms. Kimberley Gay, Coordinating Assistant, Agriculture Professional Development Programme, Agriculture Now Training Unit, Ministry of Food Production.

A Conversation which provided a comprehensive big picture perspective of the APP, inclusive of the key beneficiary stakeholder groups of women and youth; highlighted the potential of a stronger regional cooperation with the

Dominican Republic who has much to offer in agricultural innovation; outlined goals to nurture and grow a new generation of agriculturalists and agri-preneurs, coupled with emerging skills and careers built in and around agriculture; and a call for climate smart farming initiatives.

The overall objective of the APP Action is to contribute to enhance the regional and interregional capabilities of the agricultural sectors in improving food and nutrition security and eradicating poverty. The APP is ultimately aimed at ensuring that small producers/ entrepreneurs in CARIFORUM countries, including women and youth, are more effectively integrated into national, regional and international markets.

Its implementation is built on partnerships through a Contribution Agreement signed between the European Commission (EC) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which subsequently includes the engagement of implementing partners Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the CARICOM Secretariat (CCS).

Guests at the Launch left with the clear picture that the APP is a very focused initiative, grounded in country priorities whilst building on existing programmes, collaborating with complementary development partners, and involving the targeted beneficiaries: small farmers groups, women and youth.

The Launch also saw the Formal Signing of the 'Partnership Agreements" between IICA and the implementing partners and the signing of a commitment between a wider group of development partners for "The Commencement of Technical Activities of the APP'.

Benefitting countries include Antigua and Barbuda; the Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Guyana; Haiti; Jamaica; St. Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; and Trinidad and Tobago.

*http://www.news.gov.tt/content/agriculture-policy-programme-app-launched-%E2%80%A6-euro-86-million-regional-agriculture#.U4yQU201CEc*

It's Endless Summer Savings when you Fly Caribbean!
Book now for travel through August 31, 2014 and Save 5% off your next booking.*
The value never ends

SEND MONEY TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
FROM £2.90*
WIN A TRIP TO THE CARIBBEAN**
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Send money to the Caribbean and get a chance to win a trip back home to greet your family in person.
WESTERN UNION WU
moving money for better
* Western Union also makes money from currency exchange. New fees begin 20th February 2014. £2.90 transfer fee is for sending up to £100 with our Next Day service. Funds may be delayed or services unavailable based on certain transaction conditions, including amount sent, destination country, currency availability, regulatory issues, identification requirements, Agent location hours, differences in time zones, or selection of delayed options. Additional Restrictions may apply. See Send form for details. Authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for the conduct of payment services business in the UK.
** Promotion period is valid only for transactions sent until 1st November 2014 at retail locations to the Caribbean only. See at agent location for promotional terms and conditions.

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON, PAYS TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON TC, OCC, SC

On Sunday 13th July, 2014, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, along with its Diaspora (Nationals), paid tribute to the life and legacy of former President and Prime Minister, His Excellency Arthur N.R. Robinson, T.C., O.C.C., S.C. The Service was well attended by nationals and also included representatives from CARICOM High Commissions in London and the University of London.

Former Prime Minister and President Arthur NR Robinson, TC, OCC, SC

Nationals took part in the lively service filled with song and praise. Canon John Metivier opened the ceremony with a prayer, which was followed by Bible readings. Tributes from the Robinson family, the Tobago House of Assembly, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, S.C., M.P., Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and His Excellency Anthony Carmona, S.C., O.R.T.T., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, were delivered by senior members of staff of the High Commission.

*Officer Cadet Mc Inniss carries the national flag into the church*

The service also featured a unique cultural interlude from Mr. Rion George and Ms. Karimah Farrell, Miss Trinidad and Tobago UK, who performed a speech band. A traditional form of oratory, the speech band was said to be Mr. Robinson's favourite cultural art form. Accompanied by drums, the performers celebrated Mr. Robinson as a champion of justice, truth and law, and a man of valour with a dream of a strong, peaceful land. Musical interludes were performed by the B.I.G. Choir, whose renditions of 'Lord I'm Available to You' and 'Total Praise' moved the audience.

Father Edmund Cargill-Thompson, Vicar of St. Peter's Church, delivered a stirring homily, illustrating the comparison of King David, king of a tiny nation who left an indelible legacy for people around the world, and Mr. Robinson, leader of a small land whose role in establishing the International Criminal Court had left a legacy of justice for all the world. Father Cargill-Thompson also recalled David's fabled bravery against Goliath, comparing it to Mr. Robinson's refusal to order the forces of democracy to stand down during the 1990 coup, instead risking his life to tell them to fight on.

The service came to an end with prayers of intercession from Canon Metivier, Pandita Arsha Gosine MBE, Hindu Society, and Mrs. Asela El Morsey, Muslim Society.

Following the Service, a Reception was held at the High Commission where guests enjoyed the music of the C.S.I. steel band and shared their memories of one of Trinidad and Tobago's greatest statesmen.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

***PICTURED:***

***1)*** *Officer Cadet McInniss leads the procession into the church;* ***2)*** *Mr. David Hinkson, Immigration Attache, delivers a reading;* ***3)*** *Mr. Marlon Choo Ying, Immigration Attache, delivers a reading;* ***4)*** *The B.I.G. Choir performs;* ***5)*** *Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attache delivers a tribute from the Robinson Family;* ***6)*** *Ms. Keisha Rochford-Hawkins, Second Secretary, delivers a tribute from the Office of the Prime Minister;* ***7)*** *Ms. Nickesha Smith, Second Secretary, delivers a tribute from Tobago House of Assembly;* ***8)*** *Ms. Karimah Farrel and Mr. Rion George perform a speech band;* ***9)*** *Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, Acting High Commissioner, delivers*

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

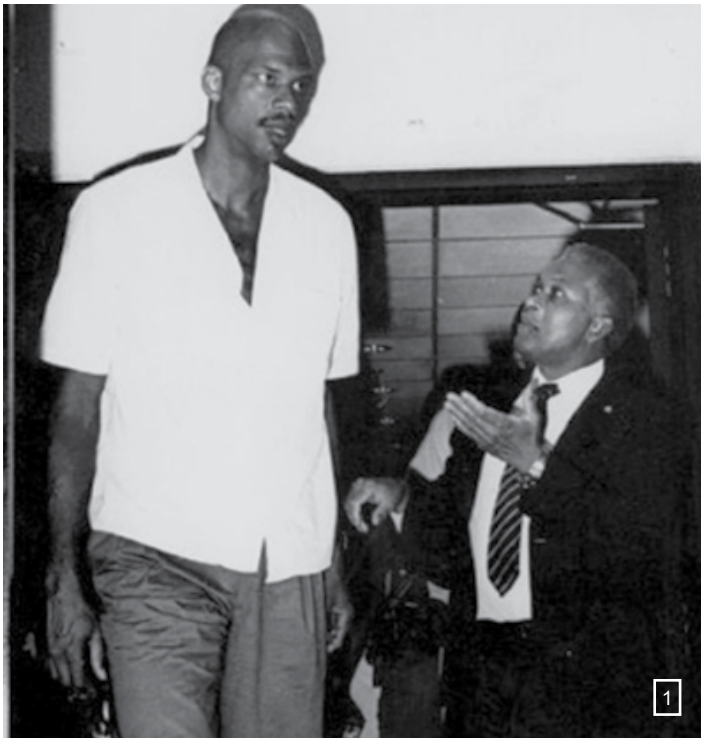
16

17

18

*a tribute from the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;* ***10)*** *Ms. Karen Thomas, Trade and Business Facilitator, delivers a reading;* ***11)*** *Father Edmund Cargill-Thompson delivers the homily;* ***12)*** *Mrs. Asela El Morsey delivers an intercessional prayer;* ***13)*** *Pandita Arsha Gosine MBE delivers an intercessional prayer;* ***14)*** *the congregation joins in song;* ***15)*** *CSI Steel band, led by Mr. Brent Holder, performs;* ***16)*** *An attendee signs the condolence book;* ***17)*** *Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, Acting High Commissioner, greets guests;* ***18)*** *Guests mingle at the reception*

# A PICTORIAL TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY ARTHUR N.R. ROBINSON TC, OCC, SC THROUGHOUT HIS YEARS


1

2

3

4

5

6

7

PICTURED: **1)** Prime Minister Arthur NR Robinson and American basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar during his visit to T&T in the 80s; **2)** A. N. R. Robinson wins the seat for Tobago East - 1977; **3)** The Hon. A. N. R. Robinson with wife at Tobago House of Assemply Opening - December 12,1980; **4)** Hail Salessie on his first offical visit to T&T is greeted by Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams and The Hon. A. N. R. Robinson - April I8, 1966. ***Photo - Noel P. Norton;*** **5)** Prime Minister Arthur NR Robinson meets Pope John Paul II in Rome.; **6)** The Hon. A. N. R. Robinson Searing Ceremony as Prime Minister - March 19, 1997; **7)** H.E. Authur N. R. Robinson, then President of Trinidad and Tobago, Emma Bonino, European Commissioner and Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of UN, during the Press Conference at the UN Headquarters after

the establishment of the International Criminal Court - December 1, 1998. ***photo: Umberto Stefanelli;*** **8)** South African President Nelson Mandela receives a gift from President Arthur NR Robinson at the Royal St. Lucian Hotel during a Caricom Summit in July, 1998. The box had a CD of Lydian Singers' tenor Eddie Cumberbatch; **9)** A. N. R. Robinson at his inauguration as President. the then Chief Justice Michael de La Bastide presided over the ceremony at President's House - March 19, 1997; **10)** President Arthur N.R. Robinson meets Opposition Leader Patrick Manning at President's House - June 26, 1998. **11)** Arthur N.R. Robinson received the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) Distinguished Peace Leadership Award in 2002; **12)** Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar with former President Arthur N.R. Robinson at A.N.R.Robinson International Airport, Tobago. ***Photos Courtesy -Trinidad Guardian, Newsday.co.tt , Express Newspaper and GISL.***

# THE HONOURABLE WINSTON DOOKERAN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PAYS VISIT TO HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON

On Tuesday 17th June, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Winston Dookeran, paid a visit to the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom. The Minister took time to meet with staff, in the midst of a busy schedule inclusive of meetings earlier that day at the UK-Caribbean Forum, which was hosted by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Hionourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, with TTHC Staff members

While in London, Minister Dookeran also participated in the Global Summit to end Sexual Violence in Conflict which was held from June 10th to 13th and co-hosted by the Right Honourable William Hague, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Ms. Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In greeting staff members of the London Mission, Minister Dookeran highlighted the importance of their roles as representatives of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom and Europe and emphasised the need to strive towards continuous self-improvement. "I encourage you all to seek opportunities to do what you can to become better," he stated. "You must improve yourself in whatever way you can, not only through training but by setting a specific personal goal and looking for ways to enhance the jobs you do at the Mission".

Foriegn Affairs Minister handed out copies of the recently established Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean brochure to TTHC staff members

Minister Dookeran noted areas in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was working to augment operations between the Ministry and its Diplomatic Missions. In particular, he cited the Ministry's focus on improving communications and customer relations. Staff members learned of a new venture being developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which will seek to create an inclusive and interactive space for all employees, locally and foreign-based, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website. Minister Dookeran indicated his intention to advance further initiatives aimed at enhancing communication among staff at Trinidad and Tobago's various Diplomatic Missions.

The development of Trinidad and Tobago's diplomatic service was also a focal point of Minister Dookeran's address. Speaking on the recently established Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, Minister Dookeran noted that Trinidad and Tobago had demonstrated its leadership through the development of an institution devoted to training individuals in the practice of diplomacy.

"Trinidad and Tobago has become a focal point for international diplomacy, with recent visits from the President of China and the Vice-President of the United States, in addition to an upcoming visit from the President of Japan," Minister Dookeran stated. "People are looking to Trinidad and Tobago as the centre point of the Caribbean and Latin America".

As he concluded the meeting, Minister Dookeran encouraged staff members to continue taking pride in their work for the High Commission and their service to Trinidad and Tobago. "Make sure to have a sense of pride in your work," he stated. "What you do here is for a bigger purpose, and you will be able to tell your grandchildren that you made a difference".

EYE ON TRADE

# TTHC PARTICIPATES IN PAN AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN BUSINESS EXPO

**At Left:** Ms. Claudia Cupid and Mrs. Karen Thomas, Trade and Business Facilitator, display products from Trinidad and Tobago including Angostura rum and KC candy.

**At Bottom:** Mrs. Candice Latchman and Mrs. Karen Thomas display literature on Trinidad and Tobago provided by invesTT

**Photos - Rod Leon**

by **MRS. KAREN THOMAS**

The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was invited to participate in the Pan African and Caribbean Business Expo which was held on Thursday 17th April, 2014 at the King's College, London.

The Mission was represented by the Trade and Business Division which highlighted the various tourism, trade and investment opportunities available in Trinidad and Tobago.

Several members of the 120 strong audience, consisting primarily of business men and women from across the United Kingdom, visited the Trinidad and Tobago booth interested in gaining a better understanding of the country's offerings.

Participation also afforded the opportunity to make some key contacts, for example, with the South London Export Club from which the Trade & Business Division subsequently received an invitation to present at their International Trade Forum on May 7th in Croydon, London.

The day concluded with a prize draw for a bottle of Angostura 1919 rum and a further networking opportunity during the evening's drinks reception.

EYE ON TRADE

# TTHC SHOWCASES AT SOUTH LONDON EXPORT CLUB

by **MS. CLAUDIA CUPID**

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London was invited to deliver a presentation at the bi-monthly Coast to Capital Export meeting on May 7th 2014 which was hosted by the South London Export Club. The meeting was well-attended by SMEs from the London Borough of Croydon with whom there were ample opportunities to network over lunch and the coffee break.

Mrs Karen Thomas, the Trade and Business Facilitator delivered a presentation which provided a brief insight into the functions of the Trade & Business Division and the major Trinidad & Tobago based stakeholders, InvesTT and exportTT; however the primary focus was on the sectors targeted for development and the inherent investment opportunities.

The audience feedback was extremely positive as many questions were posed to determine how best to capitalise on the opportunities highlighted. Furthermore, during the networking sessions, key contacts were made with companies interested in doing business with Trinidad and Tobago.

These included an IT solutions firm seeking to outsource 2D and 3D animation projects; an engineering firm attempting to progress the introduction of its solar powered desalination technology into Trinidad and Tobago, amongst others.

Mrs Thomas also took the opportunity to promote the TTMA's TIC 2014 being held at the Centre of Excellence, Trinidad from July 2nd - 5th 2014. Members of the audience expressed an interest in receiving the presentation and access to the invesTT video that was featured. The organisers have since made these available to their members via their newsletter and website.

# TT DIASPORA PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING GROUP MAY MEETING

A national raises a point during the discourse at the TT Diaspora Professionals Networking Meeting. **Photos: Michael Graham**

by **MS. CLAUDIA CUPID**

Inaugurated in March 2013, with the aim of allowing members of the Diaspora to benefit from the wealth of resources available within the UK-based T&T Diaspora and providing a platform for members of the Diaspora to make a valuable contribution to their native land, the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora Professionals Networking Group has since expanded to include Trinidad and Tobago's overseas student population.

The Group continues to invite proposals as members seek a viable project to focus their attention on for 2014.

A meeting held on Wednesday May 21st, 2014 saw an audience of primarily first time attendees treated to presentations on:

- The development of an internship programme between the UK and Trinidad and Tobago by promoting a reverse brain-drain strategy by Sham Mahabir and Russell Reefer
- Development of an online platform to share ideas and knowledge among the TT Diaspora Professionals by Nigel Guy
- An existing project to provide an online platform to address the brain drain inherent in the emigration of people from the Caribbean and the economic challenges being experienced by governments and businesses in the region by Keston Perry

Members agreed to ruminate on the projects put forward and allow presenters to address areas of feedback directly at a meeting to be held on Wednesday July 9th, 2014 with the aim of selecting a project/s for focus in 2014.

# TTHC PARTICIPATES AT UK-CARIBBEAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

The Honourable Minister Winston Dookeran takes part in the UK-Caribbean Business Conference. **Photo: Rod Leon**

by **MRS. CANDICE LATCHMAN**

On June 17th 2014, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London participated in the UK-Caribbean Business Conference at the Lancaster House as part of the official biennial UK-Caribbean Government to Government Forum.

Honourable Minister Winston Dookeran, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Acting High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Mrs Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, assembled to listen to speeches by the President of the Caribbean Council, Lord Foulkes; the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Mark Simmonds MP; the President of the Caribbean Development Bank, Dr Warren Smith and Managing Director of Kier Caribbean and Middle East, Tim Corrigan on the business environment in the CARIFORUM region.

Lord Foulkes welcomed the audience, highlighting the beneficial relationship that exists between the United Kingdom and the Caribbean.

Mark Simmonds MP reiterated his Government's continued commitment in facilitating and supporting Caribbean companies in the UK, protecting the vulnerable ecological environment and identifying long term energy solutions - including natural gas and renewable technologies such as wind, solar or geothermal power. Mr Simmonds also stressed the importance of education and the UK's prioritisation of the certification of young people of the Caribbean with the right skills, through partnerships with the British Council and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Dr William Warren Smith, President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) highlighted the developmental challenges being faced by the borrowing member countries of the CDB including the high frequency of natural disasters, volatile oil prices, an inconsistent adherence to sound macro-economic management and an insufficient attention to the development of business-friendly conditions. The CDB has estimated that USD30 billion will be required over the next ten years to modernise and enhance the transportation, telecommunications, water, wastewater and power sectors in the region.

Tim Corrigan, Managing Director at Kier Construction, presented his viewpoint on 'Doing Business in the CARIFORUM region' having worked in Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Antigua and Jamaica and stressed the importance of engaging with local communities and respecting the culture of the country. Mr Corrigan admitted that whilst working in the Caribbean poses certain challenges in terms of red tape bureaucracy and lack of financing, the region is still one of the best places to be involved in.

After the opening plenary on the business environment in the CARIFORUM region, a panel discussion followed with several prestigious presenters discussing business opportunities in the Caribbean focusing on a small number of target sectors.

Benjamin Greenberg, Director of Real Estate Service at Deloitte presented on 'Infrastructure Opportunities in the Caribbean' focusing on the projects currently being undertaken in the region with the assistance of the British High Commission which include port and hotel construction in Trinidad and Tobago.

Christopher McNair, Manager of Competitiveness and Innovation at the Caribbean Export and Development Agency, discussed the avenues open to Caribbean companies interested in exporting to the UK and European Union which include partnering with local agencies and government ministries and providing technical and financial assistance.

James Burdess, Head of the Caribbean Desk at Savills, discussed the new opportunities in tourism with a focus on real estate. Whilst the economic downturn has adversely affected tourism in the region, there has been a demand for managed resort property.

The final presenter, Dr Anthony Fisher, Director of the International Office at the University of the West Indies, conversed on the opportunities in the international education sector and the availability of courses and programs available to students.

A networking session followed, with the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission hosting a booth promoting the trade, tourism and investment opportunities available in Trinidad and Tobago. This session provided a key opportunity to meet promising contacts with the hope that these relationships could redound to mutual benefit.

EYE ON TRADE

# TTHC HOSTS ENERGY CHAMBER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SEMINAR

by **MS. CLAUDIA CUPID**

**At Top:** Dr. Thackwray Driver, CEO of the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago, addresses the audience;

**At Left:** Information and literature on Trinidad and Tobago is displayed

On June 17th, 2014, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London facilitated the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago with hosting a breakfast seminar themed "Developing an Energy Economy: Trinidad and Tobago's experience in local content education and skills development". With the assistance of the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), a distinguished list of invitees, including: High Commissioner for the Republic of Seychelles, London, Her Excellency, Marie-Pierre Lloyd; Rory Scott Russell, CEO of Range Resources Ltd. and Charlotte Gibson, Government Relations Advisor at Shell, assembled to listen to presentations by the CEO of the Energy Chamber, Dr Thackwray Driver, as well as other visiting delegates to the GetEnergy Conference.

For the second year running, the Energy Chamber has led a delegation of energy training educators and service providers to GetEnergy, the global education and training marketplace for the oil and gas industry. The GetEnergy conference provides a forum to exchange best practices in learning and development in the global exploration and production sector as well as to generate mutually beneficial business opportunities. The Chamber, ably assisted by its sponsors, ExporTT and Range Resources Ltd., sought to capitalize on the opportunity to present to commonwealth countries with nascent or mature oil and gas sectors. In this regard, a breakfast seminar, held at the Mission, was organised in collaboration with the CBC to explore the potential value of Trinidad and Tobago's experience to these economies.

Acting High Commissioner, Mrs Reshma Bissoon-Deokie welcomed the delegation and guests to the event, highlighting Trinidad and Tobago's long history of oil production and acknowledged expertise in the field of gas production; as well as identifying recent successes in imparting our proficiency to emerging oil and gas economies in East and West Africa.

Dr Driver introduced presentations from Dumore Enterprises, The Universities of Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies, and The Kenson Energy Institute and led a question and answer session with a very engaged audience. High Commissioner for the Seychelles confessed to welcoming approaches for collaboration with an established oil and gas producer like Trinidad and Tobago, whose history in the field she was previously unaware. Ben Dixon, Social Performance Manager at the BG Group, voiced the concern of several of the oil and gas multinationals in the room as to what does "local content" entail in the Trinidad and Tobago context. Dr Driver explained that the Energy Chamber has been advocating and actively promoting measures to build the capacity of local service contractors and strengthen their ability to win business with the international operators. It is hoped that multinationals can and will work with local contractors within the framework of the islands' operations.

Participants expressed tremendous satisfaction with the proceedings, particularly the potential for establishing promising contacts, as well as the hope that these relationships could redound to the benefit of all.

# INTERSECTION: THE CARIBBEAN MEETS SAVILE ROW

by **MS. CLAUDIA CUPID**

On Sunday June 15th, 2014, leading Trinidad and Tobago menswear label, Millhouse, brought the Caribbean to London in the reception hall of the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

At an evening event entitled "Intersection: The Caribbean Meets Savile Row", GCaribbean Magazine, in partnership with Acubien, and with the support of the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Tourism, facilitated a private menswear presentation on the fringes of the British Fashion Council's Spring/Summer 2015 London Collections: Men.

London Collections: Men is a biannual showcase of leading brands and businesses in the men's fashion industry that is an essential fixture on the global menswear calendar. By bringing a live menswear showcase to London at this time, GCaribbean Magazine sought to use London Collections: Men as a platform to generate media attention, promote the creativity of Trinidad and Tobago's designers, and build awareness of the country's menswear product.

The presentation took the form of a static showcase featuring 12 looks. Designers Coline Baptiste-Mills and Gregory Mills received plaudits for their craftsmanship and unique take on current trends from Condé Nast magazine.

Following the show, Millhouse accepted an offer to be featured in Kreol International Magazine, and to participate in a photo shoot with photographer, Michael Mapp.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London is pleased to have facilitated a showcase which it is hoped will serve as a launch-pad to drive innovation and growth within our nascent fashion industry and attract industry stakeholders, as well as visitors from across the globe.

**Pictured top**: Models strike a pose on the steps of the Trrinidad and Tobago High Commission, London; **bottom:** Mrs. Karen Thomas, Trade and Business Facilitator, with Gus Franklyn-Bute, Founder, ACUBIEN; Coline Baptiste Mills, Designer, Millhouse; Erica Wong, Advertising Director, Condé Nast Traveller. **Photos courtesy Geoff Cooper**

# Never a Better Time, Never a Better Place:

# INVEST IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO TODAY

Trinidad and Tobago welcomes investment. Our twin-island paradise offers an energetic marketplace with enormous potential and opportunity for growth in several sectors including **Agribusiness, Clean Technology, Creative Industries, Downstream Energy, Financial Services, ICT, Manufacturing, Maritime Industries** and **Tourism.**

## More than Possible

Your investment objectives are more than possible in Trinidad and Tobago. We have the perfect mix of business and leisure in our island paradise. Our 100 years of success in oil and gas production has developed a robust business environment in a location with stunning natural beauty. It is a place where you have myriad investment and entertainment options. Here anything you imagine, whether success in business or rich quality of life, is more than possible.

## Six Reasons to Invest:

1. 8th lowest energy cost in the world at 3 cents USD/KWH
2. Second largest port capacity in the Caribbean
3. Access 1 Billion nearshore customers through comprehensive trade agreements
4. A highly developed communications economy
5. Educated, skilled and competitive labour force
6. Our comprehensive list of lucrative investment opportunities in our targeted sectors

**See a list of a few of the available investments on the reverse of this flyer.**

**Lowest business costs in Central America and the Caribbean.**

(Source: FDI Magazine)

For more information please contact us:
InvesTT Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: + (868) 638-0038
Fax: + (868) 675-9125
Email: info@investt.co.tt
Web: www. investt.co.tt

investTT
Trinidad and Tobago

CONSULAR + STUDENT SERVICES

**STUDENT ARTICLE:**

# A TT STUDENT'S UK ADVENTURE

by **MR. RION GEORGE**

I believe all other fortunate T&T scholars will readily agree that an accurate description of this UK experience thus far will be "thoroughly satisfying". For those who are unaware, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) invests in its human resources annually, by offering scholarships within fields that are necessary to develop the country, to persons who apply and fulfill the basic requirements.

This gracious opportunity ensured the continual enhancement of my education and provided an avenue to market our beautiful country, experience different world cultures and sightsee various picturesque tourist sites.

I am pursuing International Communications and Development (M.A) and began classes four weeks late. This made me anxious at the start, but I accepted the challenge to intently focus and update myself with all the work I missed.

This was a demanding yet fulfilling experience because I did 'catch up' and received pleasing results. I also gained significant insight into various international issues and practices within the communications field, on a global level. I am eager to acquire additional information this semester, which I anticipate will be useful towards the development of our country.

My greatest moment of pride in the UK thus far was describing T&T to a group of classmates. They were astonished to discover T&T's multi-ethnicity, rich and diverse cultures and aesthetic beauty. Additionally, they were amazed by the fact that our small country possesses such significant natural resources and achievements that some larger countries desire. This experience was two-fold as I made friends from various parts of the world and had the opportunity to actively experience other cultures. A lot of labels and misconceptions were dispelled through this experience. It was then I realized the significant ambassadorial role of students and by extension other migrants in promoting our respective countries.

The weather in the UK at this time is definitely colder than at home but that did not deter me from visiting various tourist sites in my locality of London. It was such a remarkable experience visiting those sites in person as opposed to seeing them on the television, movies, or photographs. It is my intent to capitalize on every touristic opportunity within the UK and Europe, as much as I could afford.

Though we are all in different locations within the UK, most of the scholars are reunited when the T&T High Commission invites us to attend any of the many commemorative events they host throughout the year. These opportunities are appreciated especially because there are usually local delicacies "free food" available, which is universally understood as a student's favourite two words.

I know other scholars will join me in thanking the GORTT for affording us this opportunity to enhance our education and gain international exposure in many ways. I encourage other T&T nationals who fulfill the requirements to apply for one of the many scholarships being offered. All the necessary information can be accessed online at www.scholarships.gov.tt. You can have your own adventure, mine continues.

**STUDENT ARTICLE:**

# FOR THE LOVE OF LANGUAGES

by **MS. RACHAEL ROBINSON**

About three years ago, I had not the slightest inkling that I would be studying at the University of Southampton in England. What seemed only a dream to me has actually become my reality, leaving me with no room for regrets whatsoever.

The BA French and Spanish degree programme at the University of Southampton has not only developed my academic capacities, but it has also helped to shape and broaden my perspective on living in our modern multicultural world.

As part of my degree, I spent the last academic year in the French-speaking region of Belgium, where I studied Translation and Interpreting at the Université de Mons. It is here that I began pruning my passion for this field, gaining insights into the world of interpreters and translators, whilst improving my linguistic fluency and communication skills, and exploring cultural phenomena.

The scope of my degree has encouraged me to go beyond my everyday borders, both literally and figuratively. From learning to salsa dance in a Spanish studio in downtown Madrid, to roaming around Luxembourg's historical landscape, and even through my encounters with several international students here in Southampton, I have been able to grow both as an individual and as a Trinidadian scholar.

I have learnt over these three years that being a scholar from Trinidad and Tobago does not solely entail academic excellence, but it also entails being an Ambassador of this twin-island nation, as well as the humble recipient of the global multicultural mosaic in which we live.

Currently in my final year of undergraduate study, I hope to present my experiences and knowledge of this vast cultural panorama to my Caribbean home country in the near future, through my unequivocal love of languages.

*InvesTT Fast Facts*

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

www.investt.co.tt

Trinidad and Tobago is home to abundant natural resources, talented people and robust infrastructure. Here are some more facts about this leading Caribbean location.

*Sources:*
*Central Statistical Office, Central Bank, Telecommunications Authority, fDi Magazine*

## LOCATION

## GMT - 4:00

Two islands located at the southern tip of the Caribbean island chain. Ideal location below the hurricane belt with access to North and South American markets

Trade Agreements with: USA, UK, Canada, Brazil, France, Columbia, Cuba, Denmark, Germany, India, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Panama and CARICOM.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: MARKET ACCESS

Total
**1.2 BILLION PEOPLE**

- Multilateral Trade Agreements
  **1.1 BILLION PEOPLE**
- Partial Scope Trade Agreements
  **102 MILLION PEOPLE**
- CARICOM
  **14 MILLION PEOPLE**

Language
**ENGLISH**

Population
**1.3 MILLION**

Trinidad **4,828** Km²
Tobago **300** Km²

Capital
**PORT-OF-SPAIN**

Climate
Dry season **JAN - JUN**
Rainy season **JUN - DEC**

Avg. 31°c | Avg. 21°c

Politics
**STABLE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY**

Education
**FREE TERTIARY EDUCATION**
**7,600 GRADUATES ANNUALLY**

Legal System
**INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY**
Economic freedom and laws to protect investors

## GDP

Oil/Gas | Services | Manufacturing

## GDP BY SECTOR

6%
41%
52%

## % OF LABOUR FORCE

9%
5%
60%

Labour Force
**635,100**

GDP per capita
**US$18,010**

Growth Q4 2013
**↑ 1.5%**

Electricity Rate
**US$ 0.03/KWH**

Lowest business costs in Central America and the Caribbean

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Modern digital and fibre-optic telecommunications infrastructure

**(868)**
Country code

**5 FIBRE-OPTIC LINKS**
Redundant and diverse fibre-optic submarine cables

**80.1%**
Internet penetration

**139%**
Mobile penetration

## PORTS

Two major ports handling dry and general cargo plus two liquid terminals

**RANKED #2**
in port capacity in the Caribbean

## TRANSPORTATION

**SECOND**
most developed road network in the Caribbean

### AIR TRAVEL

Piarco International is a modern airport on the island of Trinidad while Tobago is served by the ANR Robinson International airport. Direct flights to major international cities like New York, Toronto and London.

Approximate
**FLYING TIMES**

| BEIJING | ZURICH | BRAZIL | LONDON | TORONTO | HOUSTON | NEW YORK | MIAMI | PANAMA | CARACAS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25.1 HOURS | 17 HOURS | 15.1 HOURS | 8.2 HOURS | 5.5 HOURS | 5.3 HOURS | 4.5 HOURS | 3.3 HOURS | 3.25 HOURS | 0.55 HOURS |

For more information, please contact us at info@investt.co.tt

# TAX AND DUTY WAIVERS FOR RETURNING NATIONALS

Returning nationals are eligible to import personal and household items and vehicles at reduced rates of duty. To qualify, you must:

1. Provide proof of residence abroad, e.g. passport. employment records;
2. Provide proof of ownership of vehicle, e.g. registration certificate;
3. Provide an affidavit sworn before a local Commissioner;
4. Present two (2) passport-size pictures;
5. Present a Customs Declaration Form in person and attest in writing that the legal requirements have been met.

Returning residents who wish to import personal and household items at reduced rates of duty are advised that there are two categories of household effects:-

1. Items which are in the use and possession of the passenger for at least one (1) year - No duties and taxes are payable. Any passenger can benefit from this measure, in accordance with item 6(b) of the Second Schedule.
2. Items which are owned by a returning national residing abroad for at least five (5) years. Conditions for exemption from duties and taxes on household effects for a returning national are summarized below:-
   - Must have resided abroad continuously for at least five (5) years and returning home to reside permanently, in accordance with item 6(c) of the Second Schedule;
   - The household effects are for his personal use and not for sale or exchange;
   - The household effects must be imported within two (2) months before or after the arrival of the returning national or such further period as the Comptroller of Customs and Excise may allow in any special circumstances in accordance with item 6(d) of the Second Schedule;
   - Exemptions apply to one householder per family.

*http://www.tthighcommission.co.uk/index.php/nationals/returning-national*

IMMIGRATION

# UPDATE ON VISA-FREE TRAVEL TO EU

Trinidad and Tobago citizens can look forward to visa-free travel to the European Union (EU), hopefully by the first quarter of 2015.

In May the European Council approved an amended list allowing citizens from 16 countries—including Trinidad and Tobago—to be exempt from the visa requirement when travelling to the Schengen Zone.

The Schengen Zone comprises 26 European countries (mostly part of the EU) that have abolished passports or any other type of border control in between their common borders.

But, the European Union said, the exemption will only come into force when bilateral agreements on visa waivers between the EU and the respective country have been concluded in order to ensure full reciprocity.

"To this end, the amending regulation inserts a new article in Regulation 539/2001 (the original) stating…countries whose nationals are subject to or exempt from the visa requirement (will be) based on a case-by-case assessment of a variety of criteria relating, inter alia, to illegal immigration, public policy and security, the economic benefits, in particular in terms of tourism and foreign trade, and the Union's external relations with the relevant third countries including, in particular, human rights and fundamental freedoms considerations, as well as the implications of regional coherence and reciprocity," EU said.

"The regulations that open for the visa waiver for Trinidad and Tobago have been done. So from our side it becomes effective, but it becomes a reality only when we sign an agreement with Trinidad and Tobago. To sign an agreement we have to finalise negotiations, which being an international agreement it is based on reciprocity. So we will have a technical check-up of things. Once all these things are checked and everything is fine we sign the international agreement and then it becomes a reality," said EU attaché Daniela Tramacere.

Some of these reciprocal steps have already been taken by the Minister anticipating the work there to do, she said.Among them is the time waiver - the EU will grant a three-month visa to all Schengen areas, so Trinidad and Tobago has to do the same for all the countries (in the EU), Tramacere noted.

"So we have just to verify everything is in place and then sign the agreement and then off you go. I will say (it should be finalised) the first quarter of next year so it's not too far away," she said.

Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Dookeran said the waiver process has been long, but Ministry staff was working to reduce the wait for the finalisation of the agreements.

Other Caribbean countries included in the EU waiver are Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

*www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Visa-free-travel--to-EU-next-year-259152661.html?m=y&smobile=y*

CULTURE + TOURISM

# TTHC CELEBRATES REDISCOVERY OF HISTORY FOR INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY

*Guests enjoy a performance by the G&H Tassa Drummers*

Trinidad and Tobago nationals in London celebrated the 169th anniversary of Indian Arrival Day with an afternoon of historical remembrance at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission.

The celebration took place on Saturday 24th May and featured an address which charted the development of the East Indian community in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as several festive cultural performances.

Acting High Commissioner, Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, welcomed the packed audience. "As members of the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora, you can well relate to the trepidation our East Indian ancestors would have felt," she stated. "Like them, you have left your home to make your way in a new land. In similar fashion, you have carved out your own niche and have become important components of society in the United Kingdom".

"As I reflect on this occasion, it is clear that there is so much of our history we must rediscover," remarked Mrs. Bissoon-Deokie. "Indian Arrival Day is an opportune time to embark on this rediscovery".

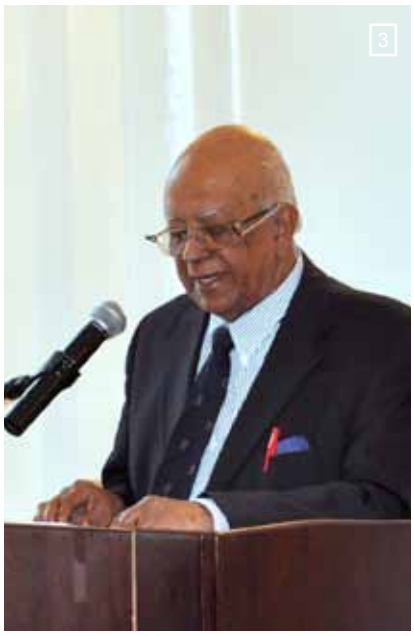
Mr. Balgobin Ramdeen, a member of Trinidad and Tobago's Parliament from 1961-1966, delivered the feature address and proved to be a wealth of information. Ramdeen recounted the genesis of the East Indian community in Trinidad and Tobago, from the docking of the Fatel Rozack to the flourishing of those immigrants' descendants to the pinnacle of society.

"Like those who were enslaved from Africa, Indians who have suffered because of the hardship endured under indentureship showed that they were a resilient people; a people to rise and realize their potential," declared Mr. Ramdeen. "We have had responsibility for paddling our own canoe, as the saying goes; for charting our own course. What we need now is for all ethnic communities to come together to build the common good".

Guests were treated to dynamic cultural presentations, including a dynamic performance from the Absolute Bollywood dance duo, Jenny Jethwani and Farzana Kamal.

The G&H Tassa Drummers, including Suresh Rambaran, Pooran Ramcharan, Deenish Nigel Rampartap, and Gemlaker Ramchander created an explosive energy with their powerful rhythms, and Rampartap had guests dancing and waving with his musical tribute to Trinidadian chutney legend Sundar Popo.

The celebration continued into the evening as guests enjoyed a traditional Indo-Trinbagonian meal of curry and roti. For members of the Diaspora, the event was a fitting celebration of Trinidad and Tobago's multifarious culture.



**Pictured: 1)** Acting Higjh Commissioner, Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie,delivers her address; **2)** Tourism Attache, Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips addresses the audience; **3)** Mr. Balgobin Ramdeen speaks on the history of the East Indian community in Trinidad and Tobago; **4)** Deenish Rampartap performs; **5)** Mrs. Bissoon-Deokie receives a gift of a rasas drum on behalf of the High Commission; **6)** the Absolute Bollywood duo perform; **7)** Guests enjoy the chutney music

CULTURE & TOURISM

# LONDONERS COMPETE FOR TOBAGO FLIGHT PRIZES

Hundreds of commuters at London's Victoria Station queued up for the chance to win a pair of plane tickets to Tobago on Saturday 10th May.

The swarm of competitors were participating in the British Airways Caribbean Campaign, a promotion which highlighted Tobago as a premier tourist destination.

A pair of plane tickets was given away every 15 minutes from 8:00am – 8:00pm. The interactive challenge saw commuters 'playing pilots' at an airport-style desk and control a virtual British Airways Boeing 777 aircraft heading to Tobago from London (Gatwick) airport, with the most accurate pilot winning a pair of British Airways tickets to the destination.

Congratulations to the 48 lucky winners, who will surely have a vacation to remember in a true gem of the Caribbean.

# TTHC CONGRATULATES CLARY SALANDY, NEW ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR FOR UK CENTRE FOR CARNIVAL ARTS

Clary Salandy, the multi award winning and much acclaimed founder of Mahogany Carnival Design, has been appointed Associate Artistic Director of the UK Centre for Carmival Arts. Lisa Marie Trump, Chief Executive at the UKCCA, said: "I am thrilled that Clary will be joining us at the UK Centre for Carnival Arts. Clary's long history in Carnival is testament to her great skill as an artist, her deep understanding of the art forms and a true commitment to Carnival-making.

T&T national, Ms. Clary Salandy, new Associate Art Director for UK Centre for Carnival Arts

Clary has been featured on many TV arts documentaries, and her work has appeared at a number of internationally prestigious events, including the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony, the opening ceremony for the Special Olympics in Leicester, the Dubai World Cup and the first Afro-Asian games in Hyderabad, India. She also designed the costumes for the musical Carnival Messiah, which was staged at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Clary, who was born in Trinidad and studied Theatre Design in the UK, said, "To contribute to the strategic development of the various carnival forms in the UK through the fantastic work of the UK Centre for Carnival Arts is an amazing opportunity, as I believe carnival is one of the greatest forms of creative expression"

*http://www.socanews.com/articles/article.php?Clary-Salandy-joins-UKCCA-902*

# LUTON INTERNATIONAL CARNIVAL 2014

The town of Luton is home to one of the most exciting Carnivals in Britain, and this year the festival was made even bigger and better by new official organisers, the UK Centre for Carnival Arts. On Sunday 25th May, crowds of revellers congregated in the streets of Luton to enjoy a celebration of Caribbean-inspired culture.

The action centred on St. George's Square and Wardown Park, where a wide array of intricately designed costumes lit up the parade route, modelled by a diverse range of masqueraders. The fantastic costumes wowed onlookers, who danced to music including the live sounds of steelpan.

More than 30 groups took part in this year's carnival procession, with 20 of them coming from Luton and the others being unique acts from national carnival arts organisations from all over the country. Local carnival groups were joined by schools that had spent weeks learning all about carnival arts and charities including Samaritans and Keech Hospice Care.

Clary Salandy, Associate Artistic Director at the UK Centre for Carnival Arts, said: "Absolutely everyone who saw the parade today got an incredible experience. I was amazed at many of the costumes and by the tremendous effort made by everyone to bring the spirit of carnival to life.

"Most of all, I am so impressed with the warmth and togetherness displayed by all of the different communities. It is a quality of which we should all be proud.

"Luton International Carnival has a bright future. We have some hugely talented artists involved already but we want more! Next year, come and get involved! Design a costume, make it or take part. The Carnival is a big part of the town and we want our communities to get involved."

*http://www.carnivalarts.org.uk/Carnival2014.aspx*

Photos: BBC Three Counties

# CARNIVAL OF CULTURES IN BERLIN, GERMANY

The music, energy and explosive culture of Trinidad and Tobago were well represented at the Carnival of Cultures in Berlin, Germany, a massive street festival which took place during the second weekend in June. Among the Trinbagonian Diaspora in the United Kingdom, Berlin's Carnival has been growing steadily in popularity, and this year saw crowds of Trinidad and Tobago nationals venture to the German capital to celebrate their culture.

Since 1966, the Carnival of Cultures has been celebrated every year on Pentecost (Whitsun) weekend in Kreuzberg, Berlin: opulent costumes, powerful makeup, imaginative masks, and decorated hand carts make their way through the streets demonstrating the cultural diversity of Berlin.

During the Carnival of Cultures, a colourful hustle and bustle is prominent on Blücherplatz: over the multi-day street festival, there are culinary delicacies and all sorts of items from all over the world. From fresh coconuts and sweet potatoes to eccentric accessories, to clothing and hand-made crafts, there is something for every taste at almost 400 stands. On the many stages, you can also hear music from various regions around the world.

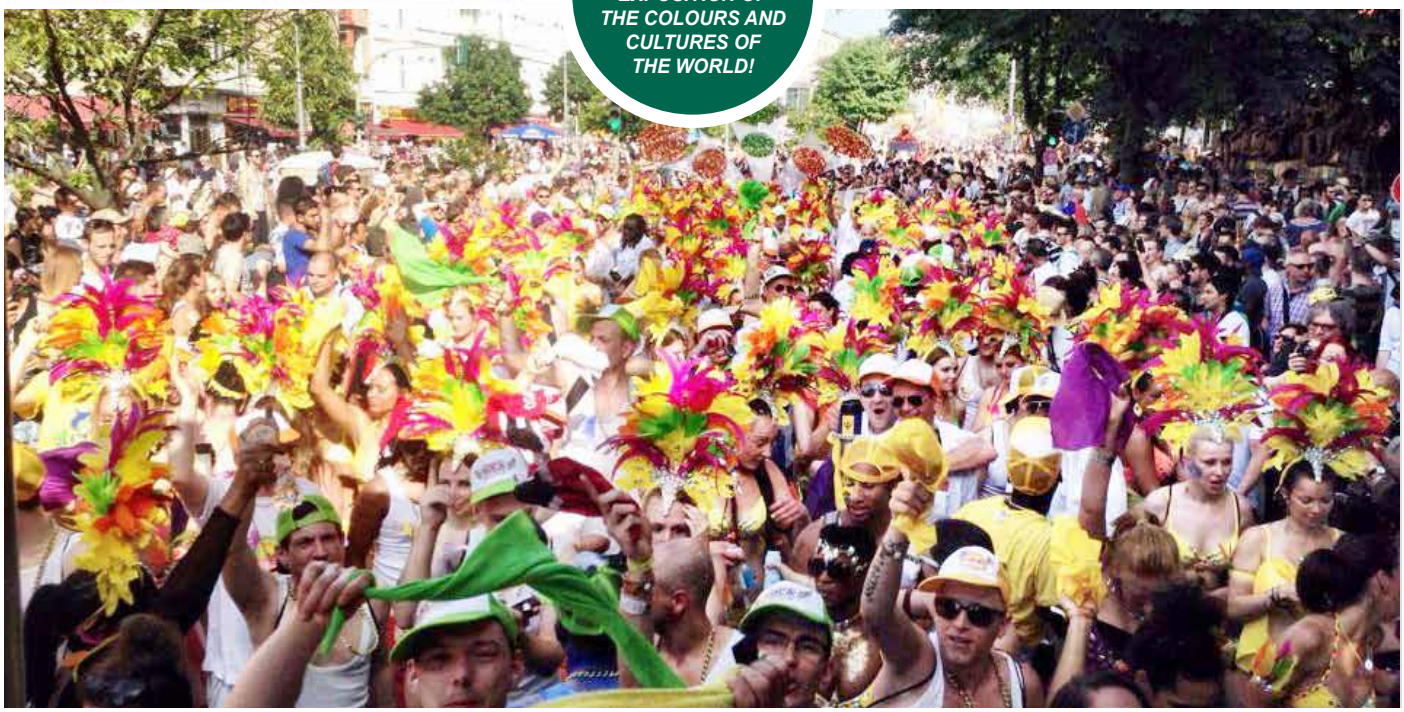
The highlight of the Carnival of Cultures is the street procession on Pentecost Sunday (mid-May to mid-June) with around 4,700 participants from 80 countries who boldly celebrate the cultural diversity of Berlin with traditional costumes and ritual dances. The caravans begin at noon on Hermannplatz and continue until evening across Hasenheide and Yorckstraße to Mehringdamm. The participating groups represent the cultural diversity of Berlin and are impressive with their elaborate costumes and rehearsed dances. The most original and fantastical performances are awarded by judges.

Around one million people attend the Carnival of Cultures every year, thus making the street festival one of Berlin's largest open air events. Along with the carnival, there are also numerous parties and music events as well as a comprehensive programme for children

***Information via*** *http://www.visitberlin.de/en/event/06-09-2014/carnival-of-cultures-2014*

3

***THE CARNIVAL OF CULTURES WAS A TRUE EXPOSITION OF THE COLOURS AND CULTURES OF THE WORLD!***



Photos: Ms. Khadine Adams;
http://www.karneval-berlin.de/de/Galerie.503.html

CULTURE & TOURISM

# BRIAN LARA SHINES AT LORD'S FOR LEGENDARY BICENTENNIAL

Lord's was treated to a show that befitted the iconic cricket stadium's bicentennial as the Marylebone Cricket Club (M.C.C.) took on the Rest of the World in an exhibition match in front of a packed house at the Home of Cricket. The Queen had paid tribute to the famous ground in a letter that was published in the commemorative programme.

It read: "The development of rural cricket into what it is now, to many cricket followers, the most famous ground in the world is deserving of celebration. "On the 200th anniversary of Lord's Ground, I send my sincere good wishes to all those responsible for arranging the M.C.C. v Rest of the World match on Saturday 5th July, to the spectators who are fortunate enough to be there in person, and to the cricketers and match officials themselves. I hope that the special cricket match is, in every respect, worthy of so notable an anniversary."

World record batter Brian Lara was on the M.C.C. side along with other luminaries including Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Brian Lara, Rahul Dravid and Daniel Vettori, while the Rest of the World side contained Shane Warne (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Kevin Pietersen and Muttiah Muralitharan. Lara's side claimed victory, scoring 296-3 to Rest of the World's 293-7 by seven wickets.

A large contingent of Trinidad and Tobago nationals was present to support the talismanic batsman, including prominent members of the business community and tourism and trade investment stakeholders. A buzz of energy surrounded Lara in the days leading up to the match, as he graciously indulged hoards of autograph seekers who excitedly shouted their well wishes. Ever the ambassador, Lara made time to connect with his supporters, hosting a reception at the Sanderson hotel on Wednesday and amiably interacting with special guests from Trinidad and Tobago throughout the week as part of a special tour package.

On the big day, tumultuous roars from the crowd greeted Lara as he strode onto the field, and the batsman put in a cool performance of 23 runs from 38 balls. The oldest player in the match, Lara had expressed his eagerness to ensure that he provided something special for the fans. Indeed available tickets for the match had been lapped up within 30 minutes of them going on sale.

"The idea is to celebrate the occasion and give something special to the spectators," Lara stated before the start of the match. "The occasion demands it. They are taking this event seriously, the officials, the players, the fans...everyone, so it is important that we do well and make it a special occasion."

*With reporting from http://www.hamhigh.co.uk and Valentino Singh, Sports Editor, Trinidad Guardian*

**Above:** Brian Lara scored 23 runs from 38 balls.

**At Left:** *(L-R)* Brian Lara seated with M.C.C. and Rest of the World luminaries, Sachin Tendulkar (4th player seated) and Shane Warne (5th player seated).

FEATURE

# SPOTLIGHT ON... RHODES SCHOLAR KIRON NEALE

In November 2012, Kiron Neale received news which would set his life on an incredible new trajectory. Neale, who had recently impressed a massive audience as Valedictorian at the University of the West Indies' graduation ceremony for the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, beat a slew of regional candidates to be awarded the prestigious Commonwealth Caribbean Rhodes Scholarship.

The Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards supporting outstanding all-round students at the University of Oxford. Established in 1903 under the will of Cecil Rhodes, the Rhodes Scholarships scheme is the oldest and perhaps the most prestigious international graduate scholarship program in the world.

Neale was the first Trinbagonian to be awarded this world-renowned Scholarship in nine years and the 10th Trinbagonian in history to do so. Presently, the twenty-three year old scholar is living the life he dared to imagine as a youngster growing up in South Trinidad. Pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Change and Management at the University of Oxford, Neale is keen to gain the expertise necessary to become a key player in the advancement of sustainable practices in the energy sector throughout the West Indies.

Read on to get the full scoop on Trinidad and Tobago's own Rhodes Scholar, Kiron Neale.

***You were the top CAPE candidate for Environmental Sciences in 2009, a Government Scholarship winner, and Valedictorian of your graduating faculty at UWI. What has been your driving factor to achieve academically?***

To put this into perspective, material goals or worldly goals can fade away. My motivating force to excel is not set on any particular goal of wealth or new sports car (although one must stop to admire the Lamborghini Aventador), but rather, I have let God's standards be the benchmark I strive to meet. I never try to be the best, I try to be my best; that is all we can be really. Having all those academic accolades below my belt would mean nothing to me if one day I can't use it to help my fellow brother and/or sister. It is this that drives me. Knowing in my heart that all these years of sacrifice and work would be to one day fulfil His purpose.

***Your classmates at UWI will recall your Michael Jackson dance moves during your student orientation. How else do you unwind from your studies?***

I enjoy painting with watercolour pencils, watercolour and acrylic paints as well as the occasional pencil sketching. Most of my work revolves around wildlife and natural scenes; although I must say that wildlife capture my attention more so. It may be a subliminal link to my formal environmental studies, but the textures of the natural world really appeal to my artistic eye. I also participate in athletics competitively (namely the sprint events) with other sports such as football and table tennis as more relaxing activities.

***As a student at UWI, you embarked on a semester abroad at the University of Alberta. Why did you decide to spend this time away, and did the experience affect your life in any way?***

As I quite so often tell students that go abroad to study for some part of their academic career, when we do so, it's not so much for the academics or because we've heard that this programme is great or this university is well ranked. We go because there is some aspect of our life's horizons that needs broadening as can only be done through such an experience. What a student puts into his/her degree is what he/she will get out of it no matter the institution. Hence, the reason I saw the value in doing the exchange in Alberta was that it was an opportunity for growth emotionally, spiritually and in my individuality as a Caribbean citizen. The experience made me more responsible in terms of living on my own, managing finances and balancing life in general. It has also greatly influenced the way I

interact with other international students; all lessons that I am applying here at Oxford.

***Rhodes Scholars are dubbed "Leaders for the world's future". What do you think set you apart from the other Scholarship candidates?***

It may perhaps have been my ambition for the Caribbean region to move forward in the renewable energy race. Throughout my interview, there were several points where I was able to emphasise my research in solar energy, its specific relationship to governments and its relevance to other stakeholders. So this may have been a defining factor in the selection process.

***What has been the most challenging aspect of life at Oxford, and the most rewarding?***

The most rewarding aspect of Oxford life has without a doubt been meeting and spending time with my classmates. The nature of my programme has taken us from Wales to just below the Scottish border on field trips. So it is these sorts of outdoor bonding experiences that enriched my stay at Oxford; making that connection with international friends beyond the classroom or some social gathering. On the flip side, the most challenging aspect has been trying the balance my time between track, studies,

painting, dancing and social events.

***What do you miss the most about home, and what do you most value about being in the UK?***

I would actually miss my mom's pelau the most. The rich spice and seasoning that graces the pot of a good, hot plate of chicken pelau is unrivalled in the culinary world. There is however no single thing that I can pull out of my UK experience to be the most valuable. From meeting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II within two weeks of arriving in the UK to seeing wildlife I've only ever seen on the Discovery Channel, the UK experience has been too great to be expressed with words.

***As you near completion of your Master's, what policies/ practices do you think can be implemented or improved in Trinidad and Tobago to enhance the sustainability of our environment and energy sector?***

When looking at the energy sector in particular, perhaps the portfolio and institutional pathway of access to the Green Fund can be modified to incorporate renewable energy schemes. I'll stress particularly at the community action group level since by getting the citizens to interact with the technology as well as project development process, they gain a sense of ownership in the project as well as enhanced social capacity towards energy consumption and supply. Another aspect that can be looked at is energy efficiency. This is an impactful and cost effective means of reducing energy consumption within the residential sector. As such, there are existing policy documents that facilitate energy efficiency development such as the draft national renewable energy policy. Once mainstreamed, the shift toward domestic energy efficiency such as in household appliances and the like can be reflected in a home's energy rating and can be incentivized through tax breaks for example. These examples are linked to human behaviour, learning and practice; suggesting that policy and implementation should explore this social potential. If we modify our consumption model, a model that extends to all aspects of everyday life, then we can mitigate our impact on the wider environment. For example, more efficient vehicles utilize less energy to travel the same distance and reduce air pollution inputs.

***What do you hope to achieve when you return to Trinidad and Tobago?***

I hope to bring some of my innovative perspectives toward energy to Trinidad and Tobago. The focus of my intended DPhil research is on the culture of energy consumption and not so much the technological aspect. By thinking at a systems level, providing new technology such as renewables may not necessarily be the answer. That is why I'm looking to explore the demand side management options in my research. In so doing, I hope to strongly influence energy policy and decision making by introducing a novel paradigm that fits our local context.

***What advice would you give to young people who wish to make a positive contribution to Trinidad and Tobago?***

Do what you believe in your heart to be right. Whether you believe in God or not, He believes in you. You are here for a purpose, your purpose. Let others guide your decisions but not make them for you. I remember being told that I should've taken Math as one of my options during my Form 6 days; I didn't take up the subject and I think I turned out 'ok' without it. I followed and did the subjects that interested me and this is where it has gotten me. Bottom line- do what you enjoy doing, what makes you happy and have fun with it. Let that be a reason why you do what you do. When you're faced with challenges and the pressure builds, remember you chose this path. It didn't choose you. You chose it because you enjoy what you do because it is part of what makes you, you.

# TOBAGO WELCOMES ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT FOR THE WINTER SEASON

**British Airways and Monarch Airlines boost capacity on the route with additional weekly flights.**

The Tobago House of Assembly is delighted to announce an increase in the winter flight services of both British Airways and Monarch Airlines. As of October 26th, two additional BA flights will operate via Antigua to the island of Tobago, increasing capacity on the route by 100% to meet demand. This is closely followed by an additional direct weekly Monarch Airlines flight, which commences on December 16th 2014. Offering complete flexibility, this increase in airlift will mean UK passengers can make so much more of their stay in the Caribbean.

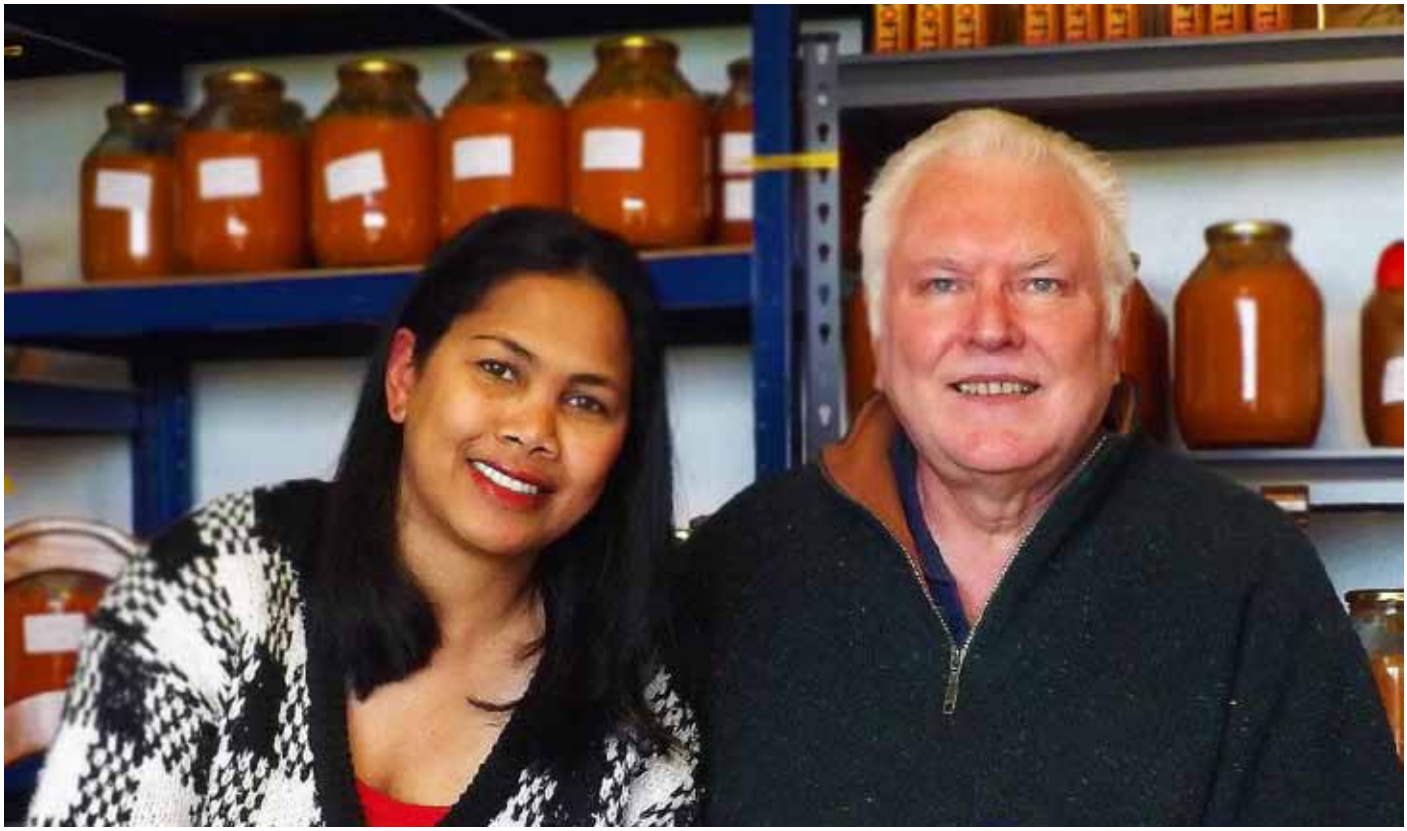
The additional airlift will offer holidaymakers and those returning home to visit family and friends a far wider itinerary choice. Holidaymakers can extend the standard one week stay to a 10 or 11 night holiday; whilst those visiting family can shorten the stay to a 4 or 5 night visit depending on their needs. The increase will also make twin centre Caribbean stays far easier and couples looking to travel for their honeymoon will benefit from being able to jet off straight after a weekend wedding.

Foreign investment and room stock growth are also a priority for the island and will certainly see a boost into 2015 with this extra airlift encouraging product growth to make Tobago even more appealing as a destination choice.

Deputy Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly and Secretary of Tourism and Transportation, Assemblyman Tracy Davidson-Celestine commented: "The UK is receptive to Tobago as a holiday destination and this additional airlift is a testament to the success of a the route to date and our future plans to encourage tourism growth to the island.

"The UK is an important market and we are delighted to be able to invest in these additional services. These flights are fantastic for our agent and tour operator network, offering far greater scope for itinerary choice and therefore a wider variety of selling options. We look forward to working closely with them in the run up to flight commencement to ensure that this venture is a success".

# OOFT! HOT SAUCE – TRINIDADIAN PEPPER SAUCE BUSINESS SCORES IN UK



**Above:** Tony and Gabrielle Johnson **Below:** They proudly display their award winningTrinidad-inspired pepper sauce next to The Scottish Food and Drink Excellence 2014. **Photos courtesy Anthony Johnson**

On Thursday 22nd May, The 2014 Scottish Food and Drink Excellence Awards honoured Trinidadian-inspired hot sauce brand Ooft!. Ooft! won out over more than 100 other products to be named the best product in the Soups, Preserves & Accompaniments category.

Ooft! is the brainchild of Tony Johnson and his Trinidad-born wife Gabrielle. The recipe was handed down by Gabrielle's father, a master pepper sauce maker from Maracas St Joseph. "My wife Gabrielle is Trinidadian and we lived there for a long time and have always eaten hot pepper sauce," Tony said.

"Gabrielle's father made a lot of pepper sauce and was well known for it in Trinidad, and he passed the recipe on to my wife," Tony added. "We started the company (Island Girl Ltd) in 2012, but the sauce requires a unique production process, a bit like wine. "We make the sauce then put it in big glass jars and leave it for a year, as it takes a long time to reach flavour perfection, then we bottle and sell it."

Looking to the future, the Johnsons are keen to explore the possibility of expanding the production of their sauce to a base in Trinidad. "We have a long term plan to bring Ooft! back to Trinidad and maybe rent space in one of the development areas to create an Ooft! that can serve the Caribbean and USA," said Tony. "Maybe, one day, we can at least dream".

For more information on this award-winning Trini hot sauce, please visit ***http://www.ooftsauce.com***

FEATURE

# APRIL NATIONALS MEETING: NATIONALS PAY TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCY ARTHUR N.R. ROBINSON

The atmosphere was poignant at the High Commission's Nationals Meeting on Wednesday 30th April, when members of the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora gathered to celebrate the memory of former President and Prime Minister Arthur N.R. Robinson.

Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, Acting High Commissioner, expressed her sadness at the loss of a great son of the soil. Several nationals took to the floor to eulogise Robinson, lauding him as a hero of Trinidad and Tobago, a man many had admired for his distinguished and knowledgeable character as well as his bravery throughout the attempted coup in 1990.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission lowered the national flag to half mast in honour of the former statesman's passing, and made a condolence book available to other dignitaries and members of the public.

**Above:** Acting High Commissioner, Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie addresses nationals; Below: Nationals gather to sign the condolence book for the late Arthur N.R. Robinson

## JULY 2014

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES
### INTEREST RATES

| CURRENCY | BUYING | SELLING | CASH |
|---|---|---|---|
| Great British Pound | 10.4265 | 10.6501 | 9.78000 |
| United States Dollar | 6.3957 | 6.4665 | 6.10000 |
| European Euro | 8.4861 | 8.947 | 8.17000 |
| Canadian Dollar | 5.9159 | 6.2215 | 5.67000 |

| Interest Rates (%): 25 July 2014 | |
|---|---|
| Discount Rate | 0.00 |
| Special Deposit Rate | 0.00 |
| Repo Rate | 0.00 |
| Prime Lending Rate | 0.00 |
| Overnight Interbank | 0.00 |

*Information based on Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago figures at time of print*

*http://www.central-bank.org.tt*

# MAY NATIONALS MEETING: LITERARY EVENING WITH MICHAELLEE JAMES AND FAWZIA KANE

Trinidad and Tobago nationals converged at the High Commission on Wednesday 28th May for an evening which celebrated the writings of two promising Trinbagonian authors, Ms. Fawzia Kane and Mrs. Michaellee James.

Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie, Acting High Commissioner, welcomed the audience and remarked on Trinidad and Tobago's rich literary heritage. "Our local writers have the potential to bring Trinidad and Tobago to life in the imagination of readers around the world, and the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission is proud to assist in the nurturing of our important cultural capital".

Ms. Kane opened the programme with readings from her book, *Houses of the Dead*. Trained as an Architect, Ms. Kane's writing illustrated in ethereal detail the construct and character of various buildings, including short stories such as "House of La Divina Pastora" and "House of the Vicar Who Loved Too Much". As she stated, "These days, houses are more like investments and less than homes. This collection of stories is about what happens in houses when people leave them...the spirits they leave behind".

Mrs. James followed, with a dynamic presentation which was in striking contrast to the softly emotional readings which had come before. Mrs. James' book, *I'm Thinking*, was brought to life with a series of dramatic portrayals by actors. Now a respected lawyer and entrepreneur, the essence of her poetry stemmed from her personal challenges as a child struggling with illiteracy and craving the compassion and guidance of teachers who believed she was a lost cause.

Her work covered a diverse spectrum, ranging from the hilarious "Billy's Excuses" to the poignant "Mama Lend Me Your Shoes". A powerful and impassioned selection of readings was followed by an address by the author herself, who moved the audience with the story of her tenacity to overcome her obstacles and commitment to helping children escape her own fate. "To teachers, don't you dare write a child off. May we not only support the high-flyers but nurture those who struggle," she declared. "To parents, hold your children's hand until you are sure they are ready to be let go. And to young people, let no one write your destiny".

**1)** A young guest purchases a copy of Ms. James' book; **2)** Acting High Commissioner Mrs. Bissoon-Deokie with Michaellee James; **3)** Fawzia Kane delivers a reading; **4)** Guests portray readings from "I'm Thinking"; **5)** Fawzia Kane signing book for Vahni Capildeo.

FEATURE

# JUNE NATIONALS MEETING: COMMEMORATION OF LABOUR DAY

The sixth Nationals Meeting of 2014 took place on Wednesday 25th June. In honour of the 41st anniversary of Labour Day, which was celebrated in Trinidad and Tobago on Thursday 19th June, the event paid tribute to Trinidad and Tobago's tumultuous labour movement as well as the men and women whose struggle led to improved societal changes in the then-British colony.

Acting High Commissioner Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie welcomed the audience with an address which profiled the leading figures of the labour movement, such as Tubal Uriah "Buzz" Butler, Captain Andrew Arthur Cipriani, George Weekes, Albert Maria Gomes, Adrian Cola Rienzi, Elma Francois, and C.L.R James.

Mrs. Bissoon-Deokie noted that Trinidad and Tobago had been a member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) since 1963 and has ratified all eight ILO Conventions, such as Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining; Discrimination and Equal Remuneration; Abolition of Child Labour; and Abolition of Forced Labour.

"As we look back on our past, it is a great point of pride to note the men and women who possessed the strength of character to stand up and champion the rights of their fellows," stated Mrs. Bissoon-Deokie. "These were people who cared about justice and social improvement and were not content to be part of an intolerable system. As a result of their struggle, Trinidad and Tobago is a society which is highly cognisant of the rights of workers, with an established tradition of strong trade unions".

The documentary "Prepared to Fight" was shown to nationals. The film, which was produced in Trinidad and Tobago, illustrated the genesis of the labour struggle and featured testimonies from several historians and members of the labour movement. The rising movement was charted from the conflicts between employers and workers in the sugar cane and oil fields, a time which was described in the documentary as "a high point for unity in Indian and African relations".

Trinidad and Tobago's worker movement was shown to have influenced uprisings across the Caribbean, as workers demanded better wages and improved conditions. The film also highlighted the significant activist role of women in the struggle, and made clear how integral the labour movement was for Africans and Indians to perceive of owning political power and eventual Independence.

Nationals were highly impressed with the documentary and praised the informative and historically enlightening nature of the meeting.

***Above:*** *Acting High Commissioner Mrs. Reshma Bissoon-Deokie delivers a speech on the historical significance of Labour Day*

***Below:*** *Nationals watching the documentary "Prepared to Fight".*

Tourism Development Company Limited
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
www.tdc.co.tt

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Arthur N.R. Robinson delivering the budget - January 23, 1987. ***photo: guardian.co.tt***

His Excellency Arthur N.R. Robinson, TC, OCC, SC. was an ever-present figure of Trinbagonian nation-building, a force who continued to influence national policy and events well into his career. In his death, he will be remembered not only as a statesman whose name is cemented in our history books, but ultimately as a leader who did not hesitate to put country before self.

We are thankful for Mr. Robinson's invaluable contribution, and hope that his legacy serves to inspire future generations of Trinidad and Tobago.

May he rest in peace.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JULY

30th, 31st – Emancipation Celebrations

### AUGUST

1st – Emancipation Day

9th – Eid Celebrations

25th – Bank Holiday Monday

27th – Nationals Meeting

### SEPTEMBER

TBA – Inter-Faith Church Service*

Events will be added and updated to the High Commission's website: **www.tthighcommission.co.uk**

Make sure to register as a national either by email or in the High Commission to keep abreast of our exciting events!

Publication of the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London
42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT / **Telephone:** 020 7245 9351 / **Fax:** 020 7823 1065 / **Website:** www.tthighcommission.co.uk